

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN DANIEL P. MACK

**HON. JOE SESTAK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2010*

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor a man who has dedicated his life to courageous and exemplary service to our Nation, Captain Daniel P. Mack of the United States Navy.

Through his 27-year career, Captain Mack consistently demonstrated his dedication, diligence, and commitment to our great Nation. The son of John Francis Mack, a World War II veteran, and Helen Marie Conboy Mack, he was born February 18, 1960. He graduated from the Naval Academy in 1982. After being commissioned, Captain Mack attended Nuclear Power School and Naval Submarine School and reported aboard the USS *John Adams*. After completing six deterrent patrols over a period of three years, he joined the staff of the Naval Academy, serving as 24th Company Officer and Executive Assistant to the Commandant of Midshipmen. In 1990, he reported to the USS *Puffer*, which completed Pacific and Arctic patrols during his time aboard, and he was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation.

In 1995, Captain Mack graduated with the highest distinction from the College of Command and Staff at the Naval War College. After earning his Master's Degree in International Relations and National Security Affairs, he was assigned to Executive Officer duty aboard the USS *Phoenix*. He completed *Phoenix's* final deployment, during which she earned the 1996 Fleet Silver Anchor Award and a Meritorious Unit Commendation. Captain Mack then returned to the Naval Submarine School, where he served as Prospective Executive Officer instructor.

In January 2000, Captain Mack assumed command of USS *Houston*. Under his guidance, the boat earned the CINCPACFLT Retention Award, for outstanding personnel development and the highest retention rate in the Pacific.

After completing his tour as Commanding Officer, Captain Mack served as Deputy Commander of Submarine Squadron 11. He then served on the Joint Staff in the Strategic Plans and Policy Division. Captain Mack also served as Nuclear Policy Division Chief and as the Nuclear Weapons Council advisor to the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He also reported to the Navy Staff where he held several vital positions.

In 2007, Captain Mack assumed command of Submarine Squadrons Sixteen and Twenty where he oversaw the development and training of sixteen separate submarine crews.

Even by the military's high standards, Captain Mack's record of achievement stands out. His personal awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, awarded for "superior meritorious service in a position of significant responsibility", the Legion of Merit, awarded for "exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services," as well as multiple awards of the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

While the Navy is losing one of its finest of officers after his retirement this month, Captain

Mack's legacy will continue to benefit the United States Navy for years to come. Whether as a Company Officer at the Naval Academy, Prospective Executive Officer instructor at Naval Submarine School, or as Commander of Submarine Squadrons Sixteen and Twenty, Captain Mack's career has deeply and positively affected the lives of countless Shipmates—improving their futures as Sailors and citizens.

I salute his committed service to our Nation. Moreover, I wish him and his three magnificent children Maggie, Daniel and Timothy great happiness as they embark on this new chapter in their lives. I am certain that Captain Mack will remain successful and productive in every future endeavor.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RICHMOND BRANCH OF THE FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA

**HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2010*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Richmond Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia on its momentous 100th Anniversary. The Richmond Branch is located in the Port Richmond section of Northeast Philadelphia which was once home to the busiest port along the Atlantic seaboard.

While the Richmond Library officially opened on March 15, 1910, the library's inception dates back to 1897 when a "Traveling Library" that was open two nights each week was established in a flour and feed store located in the heart of the Port Richmond neighborhood. In that same year a group of Protestant ministers rallied the community to establish a neighborhood library which featured expanded hours. The library was moved to the Mutual Hall Association at Richmond Street and Neff Street, which is now Indiana Avenue. This neighborhood library was named the Port Richmond Branch and housed 3000 books.

In 1908, the cornerstone of the current branch was laid through the generosity of both Andrew Carnegie, who endowed the Free Library of Philadelphia with a financial gift to construct library buildings, and Anne W. Penfield, who was considered the wealthiest woman in America at the time, who donated the land at 2987 Almond Street for the library. The building was renovated in 1994 as part of the city's "Changing Lives" campaign, which brought Internet service to this library as well as other libraries across Philadelphia.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the Richmond Library's 100th anniversary milestone and wish the friends, staff, and patrons many more years of community enrichment and service.

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SPEECH OF

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 22, 2010*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and sincere admiration that I rise

to celebrate Black History Month and its 2010 theme—The History of Black Economic Empowerment. With the current economic struggles facing our nation, it is fitting that this year's theme focuses on honoring those individuals and organizations that have had an immense impact on society during our most difficult times. Throughout our nation's history, time and time again, African American communities have found strength and purpose in coming together to rise above unfortunate circumstances, and I rise today to pay tribute to those who have demonstrated such remarkable leadership.

The theme for this year's Black History Month, The History of Black Economic Empowerment, is a reminder that in striving for a greater society, we must examine the past. Few organizations can match the impact that the National Urban League has had on promoting economic empowerment in our nation's urban communities. The National Urban League has been a cornerstone of communities across America in carrying out its mission, to enable African Americans to secure economic self-reliance, parity, power and civil rights. As the National Urban League celebrates a remarkable milestone, its 100th anniversary, we take this time to remember the outstanding contributions of those visionaries who sought to bring about hope during the bleakest of times and to recognize those who have carried on their work.

As the Representative for the First Congressional District of Indiana, I have had the pleasure of representing the Urban League of Northwest Indiana and the honor of knowing one of the organization's most influential members, Ms. Eloise Gentry. Ms. Gentry passed away on August 20, 2009, after leading the Urban League of Northwest Indiana for more than thirty years. While Ms. Gentry is missed by all of Northwest Indiana, the impact she has had on her community, not only as the president and chief executive officer of the Urban League but also as an educator in the Gary Community School Corporation and in her many other community service undertakings, will continue to resonate for generations to come. As an educator, activist, and community leader, Ms. Gentry has touched thousands of lives.

As her obituary read, "First and foremost, Eloise Gentry was an EDUCATOR." I cannot think of a more fitting one-word description. From those she taught in the classroom to those she worked closely with at the Urban League to those whose lives she improved through her work, everyone who had the pleasure of knowing Ms. Gentry learned from her, if not by her words then by her example.

While we have lost a pillar of our community, Eloise Gentry's lasting impression and the efforts of the Urban League of Northwest Indiana continue on today. Under the leadership of newly appointed president and chief executive officer, Vanessa Allen, the Urban League of Northwest Indiana, along with the more than one hundred local affiliates across America, continues to strive to provide economic empowerment and educational opportunities for African Americans while seeking to ensure their civil rights.

It is the efforts of organizations like the National Urban League and its affiliates that allow us to reflect on what makes the United States of America so special. While the United States is made up of people from so many different racial, religious, social, and ideological